



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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For Immediate Release  
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**VALLEY DAIRY FARMER SENTENCED  
TO PRISON FOR POLLUTING WATERS**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that Joe Avis, Sr., 62, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Lawrence K. Karlton to 4 months in prison and a one-year term of supervised release for a Clean Water Act violation. The Court further ordered that Avis pay a \$30,000 fine and restitution.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Robin Taylor who prosecuted the case, Avis Sr. pleaded guilty on January 30, 2001, to discharging cattle waste from Joe Avis Dairy, a 300-head dairy operation located at 4400 Point Pleasant Road, in Elk Grove, California. The dairy is considered a "concentrated animal feeding operation" ("CAFO") producing milk with approximately 300 milk cows. The defendant acknowledged in court that each day his dairy generated thousands of gallons of waste water contaminated by animal urine and thousands of pounds of animal feces. He admitted that on February 8 and 19, 1999, January 6, and December 3, 1998, and December 25, 1995, he discharged cattle waste from his dairy. These wastes entered a man-made drain on the property, which flowed into Stone Lake and the Sacramento River. The defendant did not have a permit for the discharges.

This case was investigated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Criminal Investigation Division and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board.

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